

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02814 230741Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 W
-----026620 231040Z /20
R 230615Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0569

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR
SUBJECT: FLYING TIGER LINE AND SELF-HANDLING ISSUE

REF: SINGAPORE 2403

1. IN EARLY JUNE TELECON, EMBOFF RELATED TO ROESCH, EB/OA/AN, EVENTS SURROUNDING VISIT OF TIGER EXECUTIVES TO SINGAPORE JUNE 6 WHEN THEY RAISED QUESTION OF REFTEL AND SEEMING "DISLOYALTY" BY LOCAL TIGER EMPLOYEE CONCERNING CORPORATE POLICY.

2. EMBOFF WAS CALLED MORNING OF JUNE 22 BY PAUL STOKES, TIGER VICE PRESIDENT FOR ASIA, FROM TOKYO. STOKES RAISED SUBJECT AGAIN, SAYING THAT WAYNE PARTRIDGE IN CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FEELS HE HAS LOST ALL CREDIBILITY WITH STYLES OF EB/TT/OA ON THE SELF-HANDLING ISSUE AS RESULT OF EMPLOYEE'S COMMENT, AND WAS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF SECURING AFFIDAVITS FROM EVERYONE IN TIGER CHAIN OF COMMAND AS TO WHO SAID WHAT TO WHOM. STOKES SAID HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO DISSUADE PARTRIDGE FROM THIS COURSE AND WANTS OUR HELP.

3. STOKES ASKED EMBOFF TO CONFIRM EXISTENCE OF CABLE "SIGNED BY HOLDRIDGE" REPORTING OPENING OF CHANGI INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES HERE. STOKES SAID THAT ITEM OF THAT CABLE
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LABELED FOUR, EMBASSY COMMENT, HAD DESCRIBED A CONVERSATION WITH "NEW AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE" OF FTL IN SINGAPORE IN WHICH THE REP EXPRESSED "PUZZLEMENT" OVER TIGER'S "FERVOR" IN SEEKING SELF-HANDLING RIGHTS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT STOKES HAD HAD FULL ACCESS TO REFTEL.

4. EMBOFF DECLINED TO VERIFY STOKES' DESCRIPTION OF CABLE

BUT AGREED TO CHECK FURTHER. STOKES ASKED THAT EMBASSY EMPHASIZE TO STYLES THAT TIGER HEIRARCHY WAS SOLIDLY BEHIND CORPORATE POSITION AND THAT STYLES REASSURE PARTRIDGE THAT DEPARTMENT IS TAKING TIGER'S STAND SERIOUSLY.

5. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT FULL TEXT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REFTEL WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO FLYING TIGER REPS. WE REPORTED FRANK, OFF-THE-RECORD COMMENT TO EMBOFF BY LOCAL TIGER EMPLOYEE IN PARA FOUR OF THIS CABLE BECAUSE WE FELT THAT IT WOULD ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN ASSESSING TIGER'S POSITION RE SELF-HANDLING RIGHTS. OUR CABLE WAS GIVEN LOU CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICALLY TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE. NOW WE FIND THAT HIS REMARKS HAVE BEEN PASSED VERBATIM TO HIS BOSS. WE CAN BE SURE THIS IS LAST TIME HE WILL CONFIDE IN EMBOFF, IF INDEED HE RETAINS HIS JOB.

6. STOKES IN TOKYO IS EXPECTING PHONE CALL FROM US IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR OUR COMMENT ON REFTEL. WE INTEND TO TELL HIM WE HAVE CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT HIS REQUEST THAT STYLES REASSURE PARTRIDGE THAT DEPARTMENT TAKES TIGER'S STAND ON SELF-HANDLING SERIOUSLY, BUT WE WILL DECLINE TO COMMENT ON REFTEL AND WILL REFER HIS QUESTIONS TO DEPARTMENT.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE FOREGOING EFFORTS TO CONVINCE EVERYONE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TIGER ATTACHED TO SELF-HANDLING, WE ARE STILL UNCLEAR AS TO THE REASON FOR TIGER'S STAND. TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIGER REPS HAVE EXPLAINED TIGER'S RATIONALE TO EMBOFF. EACH HAS GIVEN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RATIONALE. INGRAHAM

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